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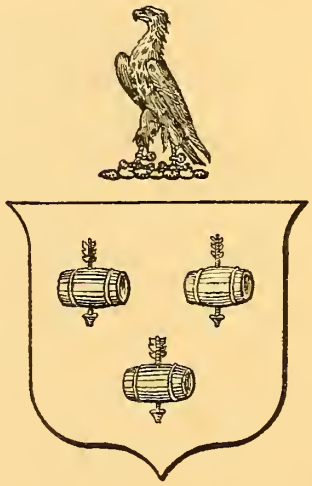

Henry Carrington Bolton

To

Dr. H. Carrington Bolton

with the kind regards of

W. A. M. Wainwright M.D.

Hartford Conn

October 27th 1887.

Gift
Mrs. H. C. Bolton
1912

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THE MEDICAL HISTORY OF HARTFORD COUNTY.

I.

BY W. A. M. WAINWRIGHT, M.D.

THE history of medicine in the Connecticut Colony, for a hundred years after its first settlement, is meagre enough. During this period very few regularly graduated practitioners of the old country appear to have been attracted by the "opening" offered to them in the new. For instance, Judd, in his History of Hadley, Mass. says, that from the year 1667 to 1730 there was no physician or surgeon in Northampton, which was "a large and rich town."

Dr. Samuel A. Green, in his "History of Medicine in Massachusetts," is authority for the following statement: "Harvard College was founded in the year 1638; and during the period from this time till 1750 there were but nine of its graduates who had ever received a medical degree."

In anticipation of their exodus to this country, many ministers studied the medical art, so that they might be able in their new habitation to care for the bodies as well as the souls of their flocks. Many of them were able physicians; and some, after a time, relinquished their ministerial duties, and confined themselves to the practice of medicine and surgery; being licensed as regular practitioners by the General Court of the colony. The "goodwife," with her knowledge of "simples," and the horrible compounds of bugs, animal secretions and excretions, and the like, which were in common use, was also a medical power, and held her own in the practice of the healing art. Each of the early settlements doubtless had one or more "old women," whose services were usually called for in cases of sickness, and whose opinions were looked up to and relied upon. This was particularly the case in childbirth, as for many years the practice of obstetrics was entirely in the hands of the midwives. In the early years of the colony, all that was necessary to become a "respectable practitioner" of medicine was to study, or, as it was often called, "to ride," with some medical man for a year or two, seeing his patients, and getting from him what medical knowledge he was able to impart. Application was then made to the General Court of the colony for a license to "practise Physic and Chirurgery." If the application was indorsed by a few respectable names, the license was granted, and the applicant became a "Doctor." There were many, of course, who practised medicine without this license, as it was not required by law. Any one, after "riding" with a doctor, could go into practice as soon as he felt able to ride alone.

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The earliest medical name found in the records of the colony is that of Dr. Bray (or Bryan) Rosseter, who was the first physician, and one of the most prominent men among the first settlers of Windsor in 1636. He was admitted to practice by the General Court of Connecticut shortly after his arrival, "being first tried and approved by Rev. Mr. Hooker, Rev. Mr. Stone, and old Mr. Smith, of Wethersfield, in the face of said Court."

He was also a magistrate, and served as town clerk until 1652, about which time he moved to Guilford, where he died in 1672. In January, 1655–6, the town of Hartford granted £10 "towards [the Rev.] Mr. Stone's charge of Phissick which he hath taken of Mr. Rosseter." The next year Mr. Stone gave, as one reason of his proposed removal from Hartford, that "we have no Physician at Hartford or near at hand," and made it a condition of his remaining, that the church should engage "to procure some able phisitian to dwell and settle here in Hartford before the next October (1657), if it be possible that such a man may be obtayned."

Stiles, in his History of Windsor, says, "The first post-mortem examination made in the colony of Connecticut was made by Dr. Rosseter." "March 11th 1662–3. The Court allows unto Mr. Rosseter twenty pounds in referenee to *opening Kellies child*, and his paynes to visit the Dep. Governor, and his paynes in visiting and administering to Mr. Taleott."

It is not absolutely certain that this "opening Kellies child" was not some ante-mortem surgical operation; but if it was post-mortem, as is most probable, it was the first autopsy made in New England, of which any record has been found, antedating by a dozen years the one made in Boston in 1674, an account of which is given by Dr. Green in his "History of Medicine in Massachusetts," and said by him to have been "one of the earliest recorded instances of a post-mortem examination to be found in New England."

From 1636 to 1652 there appears to have been but one other regularly authorized practitioner of medicine in the colony. This was Dr. Jasper Gunn, who came over to this country in 1635, at the age of twenty-nine. In May, 1636, he was made a freeman of Massachusetts, and settled in Roxbury. He removed to Milford, and afterward, about 1646, to Hartford. The inventory of Giles Whiting, April, 1656, mentions his indebtedness "to Jasper Gunn for physic and visits £2.10." In May, 1657, the General Court of Connecticut freed him from "training, watching, and warding during his practice of Physic." Soon after this he returned to Milford, where he died in 1670. In the Trinity College Library is a curious old Almanac published in London in 1652, by Sir George Wharton, which belonged to Dr. Jasper Gunn. It is interleaved, and was used by him as an account-book, and on its pages are charges for medical services and drugs, against many of the prominent citizens of Hartford of that day. There is also in the library a book which belonged to Dr. Rosseter. It is a large vellum-bound folio, a Commentary on Hippocrates, by Vallesius, published in Cologne in 1588. On the titlepage is written, "Ex dono dñi Hopkins, Bray Rosseter his book."

In 1652 Thomas Lord was licensed by the General Court to practise physic and surgery in Hartford and the neighboring towns. His fees

were as follows: "This Court doth grant that he shall be paid by the County the sum of fifteen pounds for the said ensuing year, and they do declare that for every visit or journey that he shall take or make, being sent for to any house in Hartford, twelve pence is reasonable; to any house in Windsor, five shillings; to any house in Wethersfield, three shillings; to any house in Farmington, six shillings; to any house in Mattabeseek [Middletown] eight shillings (he having promised that he will require no more); and that he shall be freed for the time aforesaid from watching, warding, and training, but not from finding arms according to law." Dr. Lord died in Wethersfield in 1662.

In 1654 Daniel Porter of Farmington was licensed to practise "Physic and Chirurgery," and was allowed "six pounds a year with six shillings to each town upon the river to exercise his art of surgery." He seems to have had considerable reputation as a bone-setter. In 1670 the General Court raised his salary on the condition that he would instruct one or more persons in his art. Thomas Hooker, of Farmington, and Samuel Mather, of Windsor, were the two selected, and in due time were licensed to practise "Physick and Chyrurgy in this Colonie." The first really noted medical name to appear in the records of the "good old colony times" is that of Gershom Bulkeley. He was the son of the Rev. Peter Bulkeley, who came from England and settled in Concord, Mass., in 1635. Dr. Bulkeley was born during the voyage. He graduated at Harvard College, and after pursuing the study of Divinity and Medicine for several years, removed to Connecticut. For twenty years he followed the ministry, and was pastor of the churches in New London and Wethersfield. In one of the Indian wars he was chosen surgeon to the colonial forces. He then gave up the ministry, and in 1686 the General Court, "being acquainted with the ability, skill, and knowledge of Gershom Bulkeley in the art of physic and chirurgery, did grant him full and free liberty and license to practise as there shall be occasion and he shall be agreeable." From this it is evident that during the twenty years of his ministerial life he practised as well as preached. He finally removed to the east side of the river, afterward incorporated as Glastonbury, and for thirty years followed the practice of medicine. He died in Glastonbury, in 1713, at the age of seventy-eight years. From the inscription upon his gravestone in the churchyard in Wethersfield it appears that he was regarded as a "man of rare abilities and extraordinary industry, excellent in learning, master of many languages, exquisite in his skill in Divinity, Physics, and Law, and of a most exemplary and Christian life. *In certam spem beatæ resurrectionis repositus.*" Most of his medical library is now in the possession of Trinity College.

Mention should be made of John Winthrop, Jr., who while Governor of Connecticut lived in Hartford (1657 to 1676). He was a noted physician and an accomplished scholar, and doubtless practised his profession in the colony.

Dr. Samuel Mather, of Windsor, was born at Branford in 1677, graduated at Harvard College in 1698, and was licensed to practise by the General Court in 1702. He was held in high esteem both as a physician and a citizen, holding civil and military offices of importance. He died Feb. 6, 1745, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. Samuel Higley, of Simsbury, was licensed to practise in 1717. He kept school

for three years, during two of which he studied medicine with Drs. Thomas Hooker and Samuel Mather, and was a man of considerable scientific attainments. He discovered a process of making steel, and in May, 1728, received a patent for it from the General Assembly. The record reads as follows: "The said Higley hath found out and obtained a curious art by which to convert, change, and transmute common iron into good steel sufficient for any use, and that he was the very first that ever performed such an operation in America . . . asks for the privilege and license for the sole practice of the said art for a term of ten years. We, being willing to give all due encouragement to works of this nature, are pleased to condescend to this request."

In 1722, Dr. Jonathan Bull, who, Dr. Sumner says, "was for many years *the physician* of the county," was, after studying with a physician in Boston for seven years, licensed to practise medicine in Hartford.

In 1736, Dr. Norman Morrison, a native of Scotland, bearing a medical diploma from the University of Edinburgh, came to this country and settled in Hartford. He was regarded as a learned physician, and became the instructor of many young men in the colony. "He died much loved and lamented, April 9, 1761, in y^e^ 55 year of his age." Dr. Sumner says of him: "He was the first man in the colony who separated the practice of medicine from pharmacy and encouraged the establishment of an independent apothecary in this city [Hartford], and by so doing he proved himself in advance of the other physicians."[1] Dr. Joseph M. Toner, of Washington, D. C., in his "Contributions to the Annals of Medical Progress in the United States," says that Dr. John Morgan of Philadelphia was, in 1765, the first American physician to adopt and publicly advocate the theory that medical men should confine themselves to prescribing remedies, leaving to the apothecary the compounding of medicines." Perhaps Dr. Morgan got his ideas on this subject from Dr. Morrison, who had, some years before, advocated the same theory in Hartford.

Jonathan Williams graduated from Yale College in 1722, and practised medicine in Wethersfield. He died in 1738, aged thirty-two years.

Samuel Porter, of Farmington, was licensed in 1720, and was a surgeon of some repute. The following certificate is in existence: —

"This may certify that I, the subscriber, do judge the abovesaid Thos. Thompson has a considerable insight in the art of physic and chirurgery, and has for many years practised the said art and with good success in his administrations.

SAMUEL PORTER, allowed Chirurgeon.

"FARMINGTON, May the 12th, 1721."

Among the early physicians of Farmington were Drs. Hart, Judd, Stanley, Thompson, and Wadsworth. Little is known concerning them.

[1] Two establishments for the sale of drugs and medicines were opened in Hartford in 1757: one by Dr. Sylvanus Gardiner, an eminent physician of Boston, who set up here a branch of his establishment in that city for the importation and sale of drugs, intrusting the business to a junior partner, Dr. William Jepson, under the firm name of Gardiner & Jepson; the other by Dr. Daniel Lothrop, of Norwich, in connection with Solomon Smith. Dr. Lothrop, "the first druggist in Norwich, and probably the first in Connecticut who kept any general assortment of medicines for sale," was a graduate of Yale College, and had prosecuted his professional studies in London. Solomon Smith was one of his apprentices and students. In July, 1760, "Lothrop & Smith, at their store in King [now Main] Street," advertised "just imported from London, a large and universal assortment of medicines genuine and of the best kind, sets of surgeon's instruments," etc.

Dr. Timothy Hosmer was born in West Hartford, but began medical practice in Farmington, and resided there many years. He served in the Revolutionary War as a surgeon, and after leaving the army returned to Farmington, where he resided until 1790, when he removed to the State of New York, and was appointed the first judge of Ontario County.

Dr. John Hart, a native of Kensington, was also a surgeon in the Revolutionary War. He came to Farmington at some time during the war, and remained there until about 1798, when he entered the naval service of the United States, and soon after died at sea.

Dr. James Hurlburt was born at Berlin in 1717, and for many years practised medicine in his native town. He was a noted character of his time, learned, eccentric, and unfortunate. He died penniless, and but for the friendship of one of the patrons of his early days, would have died homeless as well. The last years of his life were spent in Wethersfield, where he died April 11, 1794, aged seventy-seven years.

Dr. Alexander Wolcott, a distinguished practitioner of Windsor, was born Jan. 7, 1712. He was a son of Governor Roger Wolcott, and a great-grandson of Henry Wolcott, the first ancestor of the family in Connecticut. He studied medicine with Dr. Norman Morrison, and about the year 1740 began the practice of his profession in his native town, where he lived honored and respected until his death, in 1795.

A word must be said of "Dr. Primus," who practised medicine with much success, and gained considerable reputation for being a skilful physician. Primus was a negro slave, and for many years a faithful servant of Dr. Wolcott. He accompanied the Doctor on his medical drives, and helped him in compounding medicines, etc. In his old age, and as a reward for his faithful service, the Doctor gave him his liberty. Primus very soon went to the other side of the river, and, as "Dr. Primus," obtained a considerable practice, often running across the tracks of his former master.

Another prominent medical name connected with Windsor is that of Dr. Elihu Tudor, son of the Rev. Samuel Tudor, and born in that town, Feb. 3, 1732. He graduated from Yale College in 1750, and studied medicine with Dr. Benjamin Gale, of Killingworth, who was a famous physician in his day. Dr. Tudor went to London in 1762, and pursued his medical studies there for two years, after which he returned and settled in East Windsor, where he practised for many years. His reputation as a surgeon was at one time equal if not superior to that of any other in New England. He was one of the founders of the Connecticut Medical Society, and its second vice-president. He died in 1826, at the advanced age of ninety-three years.

Dr. Timothy Mather also practised in Windsor. He died April 5, 1788, aged thirty-four years.

Dr. Charles Mather graduated at Yale College in 1763. He practised in East (now South) Windsor until about 1795, when he removed to Hartford, where he gained considerable reputation, especially in the treatment of the diseases of women. He died in 1822.

Dr. Christopher Wolcott also practised in Windsor. He was one of the founders of the Hartford County Medical Society.

Dr. Lemuel Hopkins, of Hartford, was in the last quarter of the eighteenth century one of the most eminent practitioners of the county, and ranked among the first physicians of the State, if not at the head

of the profession. He was born at Waterbury, June 19, 1750. He practised for some years (1776 to 1784) with Dr. Seth Bird, of Litchfield, with whom he studied medicine, and then removed to Hartford, where he continued in practice during his life. He was a learned man outside of his profession, and a poet and political writer of much note in his day. In 1784 he received an honorary degree from Yale College. He was one of the founders of the Connecticut Medical Society. He died April 14, 1801, in the fifty-first year of his age.

Josiah Rose, a native of Wethersfield, was a leading physician and surgeon in his day. He died in 1786, aged seventy years.

Dr. William Jepson was a prominent physician of Hartford, in the last half of the last century (see note on a previous page).

Dr. Isaac Mosely, graduated from Yale in 1762, was a practising physician of Glastonbury. At the outbreak of the Revolution he removed to England, his sympathies being with the mother country.

Dr. Elizur Hale was also a practitioner, and a native of Glastonbury. He graduated from Yale College in 1742. His son Elizur was a practitioner in the same town. He died Dec. 6, 1796.

Dr. Aaron Roberts, of Cromwell, served throughout the Revolutionary War, and settled in New Britain in 1783. He died in that town, Nov. 21, 1792, aged sixty-two years.

Asaph Coleman, born in Colchester, began the practice of medicine in Glastonbury in 1774. He served throughout the Revolution as a surgeon of Connecticut troops. He was one of the founders of the Hartford County Medical Society. He died Nov. 15, 1820, aged seventy-three years.

Dr. Eliakim Fish, a prominent physician of Hartford, was born in 1741, and graduated from Yale College in 1760. He was the first president of the Hartford County Medical Society. He died May 7, 1804.

Dr. Josiah Belden was born in Wethersfield, March 29, 1768, and graduated from Yale College in 1787, at the age of nineteen years. He was a pupil of Dr. Lemuel Hopkins, and settled in his native town, where he was held in great esteem both as a physician and as an upright and godly man. He died June 6, 1818, at the age of forty, of spotted fever, in the fatal epidemic of that disease.

The Hartford County Medical Society was established Sept. 25, 1792. On the 19th of the April preceding, a meeting of the physicians and surgeons of the county had been held at Hartford, in accordance with a request from the Medical Society of New Haven County, which had been established in 1784. The object of this meeting was to appoint delegates "to unite with delegates from the several counties in the State (in a general convention at Hartford in May next ensuing) in framing a General Bill of Incorporation of the Faculty thro'out this State, and to present the same, that it may be passed into an Act by the then convened General Assembly." Dr. Elihu Tudor was chairman of this meeting, and Dr. Elihu H. Smith, clerk. The convention was held at the time appointed, and the Act duly passed by the General Assembly, and "agreeable to Act," etc., the first meeting of the Hartford County Medical Society was held at Hartford, Sept. 25, 1792. From that time to the present, a period of ninety-two years, a meeting of this society has been held each year at Hartford. The officers of this first meeting were Dr. Eliakim Fish, moderator; Dr. Elihu H. Smith, clerk; and

Dr. John Indicott, treasurer. The delegates elected to represent the county at the first meeting of the Connecticut Medical Society, which was held at Middletown on the second Tuesday of October, 1792, were Dr. Eliakim Fish, Dr. Elihu Tudor, Dr. Lemuel Hopkins, Dr. Josiah Hart, and Dr. Samuel Flagg. The first roll of membership had forty-one names, comprising most if not all of the prominent medical men in the county. They were as follows: —

Howard Alden.	Josiah Hart.	George Olcott.
John Bestor.	John Hart.	Caleb Perkins.
Eliphalet Buck.	Asa Hillyer.	John Potter.
Isaiah Chapman.	Josiah Holt.	Josiah Root.
Mason F. Cogswell.	Lemuel Hopkins.	John Skinner.
Asaph Coleman.	John Indicott.	Elihu H. Smith.
Solomon Everett.	Jason Jerome.	Adna Stanley.
Eliakim Fish.	Joseph Jewett.	Eli Todd.
Samuel Flagg.	Charles Mather.	Elihu Tudor.
Samuel Flagg, Jr.,	Charles Mather, Jr.	Edward Tudor.
Amos Granger.	Titus Merriman.	Theodore Wadsworth.
George Griswold.	Dwell Morgan.	Sylvester Wadsworth.
Joseph Hale.	Abner Moseley.	Christopher Wolcott.
Timothy Hall.	Mark Newell.	

There are at this date one hundred and eleven names upon its roll of membership. It would be impossible in this article to mention the names of all who have died since the society was founded, although something could be said of each one who "fought the good fight and kept the faith." It must suffice to mention some few of the more prominent medical names of the county during the present century.

Dr. Elihu H. Smith, the first clerk of the County Society, was born at Litchfield, Sept. 4, 1771, and graduated from Yale College in 1786. He first settled in Hartford, where he practised medicine until 1793, when he removed to New York, and in 1796 was appointed physician to the New York Hospital. He was a man of considerable literary attainments. In 1797 he published an opera in three acts, entitled "Edwin and Angelina," and was the supposed author, in 1798, of "André," a five-act tragedy. He fell a victim to the yellow fever, September, 1798, at the age of twenty-seven years, in the epidemic of that year.

Dr. Mason Fitch Cogswell was born at Canterbury, Sept. 17, 1761, and graduated from Yale College in 1780. He is said to have been the "youngest scholar, but the most distinguished, of his class." He studied medicine with his brother, and was associated with him in practice in Stamford and afterward in New York. In 1789 he settled in Hartford and became a prominent physician in that city, and noted as a skilful surgeon. He ligated the carotid artery in 1803, "at a time when it had been attempted by no other surgeon in America." It was mainly by his efforts that the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb was established in Hartford. His daughter, Alice Cogswell, was a mute, and the Asylum was the result of his endeavors to ameliorate her unhappy condition. He died Dec. 17, 1833, aged seventy-two years.

Dr. Sylvester Wells came to Hartford in 1806. He was a brilliant man, and became noted for his extreme political views, being a prominent Democrat. His religious and medical views were also extreme. He had many friends, and made many enemies. He lived to an advanced age.

Dr. Eli Todd, one of the most prominent men of his time, was born in New Haven, July 22, 1769, and graduated from Yale College in 1787. He began the practice of medicine in Farmington. At the age of fifty he removed to Hartford, where he remained until his death. He was the first to call public attention to the condition of the insane in this State, and the necessity of an asylum for these unfortunates, and it was owing mainly to his efforts that the Retreat for the Insane was established in Hartford. He was its first superintendent, and retained the position until his death, which occurred in November, 1833.

Dr. John L. Comstock was a surgeon in the War of 1812. He resided in Hartford, and was the author of several popular books on natural philosophy, chemistry, geology, physiology, etc.

Dr. Elijah F. Reed was for many years a successful practitioner in East Windsor. In 1848 he published a "History of Febrile Diseases," occurring in his practice between the years 1779 and 1837.

Dr. William Tully, who, his biographer says, "was doubtless the most learned and scientific physician of New England," was born at Saybrook Point, Feb. 18, 1785, and graduated from Yale College in 1806. He studied medicine with Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, and afterward with Dr. Eli Ives, of New Haven. In October, 1810, he was, after examination, licensed by the Connecticut Medical Society to practise medicine and surgery; and in 1819 the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred upon him by Yale College. Early in life he devoted himself to the study of botany, and afterward from his writings and teachings became noted for his knowledge of the Materia Medica. He first practised in Enfield, then in Milford, and afterward in Middletown. In June, 1822, he removed to East Hartford, from which place he was called in 1826 to fill the chair of Theory and Practice in the Vermont Academy of Medicine. In 1829 he succeeded Dr. Eli Ives as Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the Medical Department of Yale College. He resigned his professorship in 1841, and in 1851 removed to Springfield, Mass., where he died Feb. 28, 1859, aged seventy-four years.

Dr. Samuel B. Woodward was born at Torrington, June 10, 1787, and at twenty-one years of age was licensed to practise medicine by the Connecticut Medical Society. He settled in Wethersfield, and became eminent for his professional abilities. He was one of the most active and earnest workers for the establishment of the Retreat for the Insane in Hartford, and about the year 1830 was elected first superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum at Worcester, Mass., which office he held thirteen years. He was the first president of the Association of Superintendents of Insane Asylums in the United States, which was founded in 1844. A few years before his death, and on account of ill health, he gave up his position in the asylum at Worcester, and removed to Northampton, where he died Jan. 3, 1850, aged sixty-three years.

Dr. Amariah Brigham was born at New Marlborough, Mass., Dec. 26, 1798, and early in life began the study of medicine with Dr. E. C. Peet, of Marlborough, and afterward with Dr. Plumb, of Canaan. He began the practice of medicine before he was twenty-one years of age, in Enfield, Mass., where he remained two years, after which he removed to Greenfield, Mass., where he practised seven years. He then went to Europe, remaining abroad about two years. In 1831 he settled in Hartford, and in 1840 was chosen superintendent of the Retreat for

the Insane in that city. This position he retained until the fall of 1842, when he was chosen superintendent of the Insane Asylum at Utica, New York, which office he held until his death, Sept. 8, 1849. He was the author of several books upon subjects connected with his specialty, and was the founder and editor of the first journal in the United States devoted exclusively to the subject of insanity.

Dr. Edwin Wells Carrington, a prominent physician of Farmington, was born at Woodbridge (now Bethany), July 8, 1805, and graduated from the medical department of Yale College, March 4, 1828. He settled in Farmington, where he remained in active practice until his death, Feb. 8, 1852, at the age of forty-seven years.

Dr. Archibald Welch was born in Mansfield, March 13, 1794. In September, 1816, he was licensed to practise medicine by the board of medical censors of Windham County. In 1832 he removed to Wethersfield to take the place of Dr. S. B. Woodward, upon the removal of the latter to Worcester. He removed to Hartford in 1848, and practised there during the remainder of his life. He was killed May 6, 1853, in the Norwalk drawbridge disaster on the New York and New Haven Railroad, while returning with other delegates from the meeting of the American Medical Association, which had been held in New York City.

Dr. George Sumner was born in Pomfret, Dec. 13, 1794, graduated from Yale College in 1813, and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania in 1817. He went to Hartford, Jan. 1, 1819, and practised his profession in that city until his death, which occurred Feb. 20, 1855. He was a man of more than ordinary attainments, and an honored and successful practitioner. He was the Professor of Botany in Trinity College for more than twenty years, and was the author of a valuable work on that science. He was one of the founders of the Retreat for the Insane, and a most energetic and zealous worker in its behalf. At the death of Dr. Todd he was unanimously elected to fill the office of superintendent; but he declined the offer, though he remained a director and a medical visitor until his death.

From the year 1855 to 1870 there were but few deaths among the medical practitioners of the county.

William S. Pierson, M.D., of Windsor, a descendant of the Rev. Abraham Pierson, who emigrated from England in 1640, was born at North Killingworth, Nov. 17, 1787, graduated from Yale College in 1808, and received his medical degree from Dartmouth College in 1813. After practising his profession in his native town for a few months, he removed to Durham, where he remained four years, and then, in 1818, removed to Windsor, where he spent the remaining forty-two years of his life. It was the custom in those days for the people of a town, when they were in want of a physician, to extend to him a formal invitation to settle among them; and it was in answer to such an invitation that Dr. Pierson went to Windsor. He died July 16, 1860, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

Jared Whitfield Pardee, M.D., was born at East Haven, Jan. 2, 1792, graduated from Yale College, and received his medical degree from the same institution. He settled in Bristol, where he practised for many years, and where he died Jan. 7, 1867, aged seventy-five years.

During the next decade, a number of physicians, prominent in their profession, dropped from the ranks; among them were the following:

Henry Holmes, M.D., a genial gentleman of the old school, was born at Litchfield, Feb. 14, 1795, and graduated from the medical department of Yale College in 1825. He first practised in Durham, and removed to Hartford in 1833, where he remained until his death, July 31, 1870, in the seventy-sixth year of his age.

Samuel B. Beresford, M.D., well known throughout the State as a successful physician, a skilful surgeon, and an accomplished gentleman, was born in Dutch Guiana, July 5, 1806. In 1826 he received a surgeon's diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons at Edinburgh, and a degree in medicine from the University of Edinburgh. On the 3d of November of the same year he was made a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. He came to Hartford, May 12, 1834, with his father, Dr. James Beresford, who was also a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, and a surgeon in the British army. Father and son practised together until the death of the former, March 4, 1843. Dr. James Beresford was born Jan. 8, 1783. Dr. Samuel B. Beresford remained in Hartford in active practice until 1870, when he was obliged to relinquish it on account of ill health. He died at Hartford, Oct. 13, 1873, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

Dr. Albert Morrison, of Windsor, was born at Hebron, March 13, 1820, and graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1847. His death was a very sad one. While driving one of his cows from the railroad track, he was struck by the locomotive of a passing train and instantly killed. "He died on the 18th of July, 1873, and was buried from the church which he so dearly loved. The attending crowd bore witness to the honor and respect in which he was held."

William R. Brownell, M.D., was born at Providence, March 30, 1828, and graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1851. He settled in Hartford, where he practised until 1861, when he entered the service of the United States and served as a surgeon in the army throughout the Civil War. At the close of the Rebellion, in 1865, he returned to Hartford and resumed the practice of his profession. He died at Hartford, Dec. 1, 1873.

Lucien S. Wilcox, M.D., was born in Granby, July 17, 1826. He graduated from Yale College in 1850, and received his medical degree from the same institution in 1855. In 1857 he settled in Hartford, where he remained until his death. In 1877 he was elected to the Chair of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the medical department of Yale College, which he held at the time of his death, which occurred Nov. 26, 1881.

James C. Jackson, M.D., was born at Cornish, New Hampshire, Aug. 22, 1818, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1844, and received his degree of Doctor of Medicine from Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, in 1847. He settled in Hartford, where he remained in active practice until his death. He obtained considerable reputation as an obstetrician, and his practice in that branch of the profession was very large. He died from pneumonia, Feb. 7, 1882, aged sixty-four years.

George B. Hawley, M.D., was born at Bridgeport, Feb. 13, 1812, graduated from Yale College in 1833, and from the medical department of the same college in 1835. In 1836 he became associated with Dr. Silas Fuller, then superintendent of the Retreat for the Insane at Hartford. In 1840 he commenced general practice in Hartford. Dr. Hawley was the founder of the Hartford Hospital, and it is owing chiefly to his untiring labors and keen oversight that this institution is so admirably adapted for carrying out the charitable purposes for which it was established. He began his work for the Hospital in 1854, and from that time it became *the* work of his life, and he was the leading spirit in its management until his death, which took place April 18, 1883, at the age of seventy-one years. To Dr. Hawley is also due in a large measure the founding of the Old People's Home in Hartford. A history of both of these institutions, as well as that of the American Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb and the Retreat for the Insane, will be found in another part of this volume. It is to be noted, however, that the first promoters of all of these noble charities were members of the medical profession. "By their works shall ye know them."

Charles W. Chamberlain, M.D., was born at Providence, July 21, 1844, graduated from Brown University in 1867, and from the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York City, in 1871. He settled in Hartford soon after his graduation, and early in his career turned his attention to sanitary matters and became an authority throughout the State on questions of public hygiene. It was in a great measure due to his efforts that a State Board of Health was established by the legislature of Connecticut. He was appointed its first secretary and did much toward making it effective. He was Secretary of the Connecticut Medical Society from 1876 to 1883. He died Aug. 21, 1884, in the forty-first year of his age.

Harry Allen Grant, M.D., was born at St. Simon's Island, Georgia, Jan. 23, 1813. He graduated at Union College in 1830, received his medical education at the Baltimore Medical College, began practice in Albany, New York, and settled in Hartford in 1837. Here he remained for twelve years, when, owing to ill health, he was obliged to give up the practice of his profession. He died at Enfield, Nov. 30, 1884, in the seventy-second year of his age.

The following is a list of physicians of Hartford County who served in the War of the Rebellion: —

Matthew T. Newton	May 13, 1861–Feb. 17, 1864.
Benjamin N. Comings	Nov. 6, 1861–Jan. 26, 1863.
George Clary	Nov. 9, 1861–April 25, 1866.
William R. Brownell[1]	Nov. 9, 1861–Dec. 2, 1864.
Henry P. Stearns	April 18, 1861–July 31, 1861.
Samuel W. Skinner	May 22, 1861–Sept. 25, 1865.
Robert E. Ensign	Sept. 2, 1861–Jan. 3, 1862.
George A. Hurlburt[1]	Dec. 11, 1861–Aug. 2, 1865.
Charles R. Hart	Dec. 27, 1861–Aug. 25, 1865.
Nathan Mayer	Mar. 10, 1862–June 24, 1865.
Levi Jewett	July 15, 1862–Jan. 4, 1865.

[1] Died since the war.

Abner S. Warner	July 28, 1862–Jan. 28, 1863.
Edmund M. Pease	Aug. 16, 1862–Jan. 9, 1864.
Sabin Stocking[1]	Aug. 29, 1862–July 19, 1865.
Jonathan S. Curtis	Sept. 15, 1862–Dec. 11, 1862.
Wharton H. Godard	Oct. 2, 1862–Aug. 26, 1863.
H. Clinton Bunce	Oct. 10, 1862–Oct. 22, 1863.
Levi S. Pease[1]	Nov. 21, 1862–Aug. 28, 1863.
Charles J. Tennant	Feb. 21, 1863–June 16, 1865.
William B. North	March 20, 1863–May 9, 1864.

Besides the Hartford County Medical Society, of which mention has already been made, there have been three others established in the county; namely, the Hopkins Medical Society, the Hartford Medical Society, and the Medical Journal and Library Association (Hartford).

The Hopkins Medical Society was founded June 14, 1826, and took its name from Dr. Lemuel Hopkins, of Hartford. It was composed of the leading medical men of this region, its membership not being confined to Hartford County. Its meetings were held quarterly, usually at Hartford, and continued until about 1844, at which time the organization went out of existence.

The Hartford Medical Society was established Aug. 27, 1846, in the city of Hartford, and is still in existence, holding its meetings on the first and third Mondays of each month.

The Medical Journal and Library Association of Hartford was organized in January, 1873. Its object was "to establish a library of medical books and journals, and to present and discuss topics of professional and scientific interest."

DR. HORACE WELLS.

The honor of the discovery of anæsthesia belongs to Hartford County, although it does not absolutely belong to the history of its medical men. As anæsthesia was, however, of such momentous importance to them, as well as being the most inestimable boon that has ever been vouchsafed to suffering humanity, it seems fitting that the history of its discovery should be recorded upon these pages.

Horace Wells, the discoverer of anæsthesia, was a practising dentist residing in Hartford. He was born at Hartford, Windsor Co., Vermont, Jan. 21, 1815, and died in New York City, Jan. 24, 1848, in the thirty-fourth year of his age. In 1834–1836 he studied and practised dentistry in Boston, and in 1836 he removed to Hartford, where he practised until his death. The story of his great discovery is told in

[1] Died since the war.

the following letter from Dr. John M. Riggs, who was a student in the office of Dr. Wells, and a practising dentist in Hartford at the time of the discovery. He was an eye-witness of Dr. Wells's first experiment, assisted him in working out his great idea, and is thoroughly conversant with all the facts connected with Dr. Wells's practice and his life.

HARTFORD, March 16, 1885.

Dr. W. A. M. WAINWRIGHT:

DEAR DOCTOR, — You ask for a concise statement of facts concerning the discovery of anæsthesia; it is as follows: On the evening of Dec. 10, 1844, there was an exhibition of "laughing gas" for amusement in Union Hall, twenty-five cents admission, by Mr. G. Q. Colton, at which exhibition Dr. Horace Wells was present. During the exciting stage of the administration of the gas one man rushed over the seats and, falling, abraded the skin on his leg, but was not conscious of it till some twelve or fifteen minutes after, when it began to pain him. Dr. Wells caught at the length of the period of insensibility, and remarked, "I can extract a tooth from one under its influence, without pain." At the close of the exhibition Dr. Wells came to my office and we there canvassed till near midnight the whole subject as to its safety and the degree of inhalation. As we had resolved to push the inhalation much farther than for a mere exhibition for fun, we naturally looked for a patient upon whom to make the trial; but the chances of the death of said patient confronting us, Dr. Wells volunteered to be the patient and to make the trial on himself, charging me to stand by and care for him. The next morning, Dec. 11, 1844, as per agreement, Dr. Wells came into my office and said, "I am ready." We repaired to his office; he took a seat in his operating-chair, I examined the tooth, and he took the bag in his own hands and inhaled the gas; as he lost control of the muscles of his arms his elbows slipped off from the arms of the chair, dragging the gas-tube from his mouth; his head dropped back on the head-rest and I slipped the forceps on the tooth (a left superior molar) and extracted it. He soon came out of its effects, blew out the blood from his mouth, asked if it was out, and on seeing it, with a gesture of the hand, exclaimed, "A new era in tooth-pulling!" No one administered the gas to Wells; he assumed sole responsibility of the act. Mr. G. Q. Colton, the maker of the gas, Mr. Samuel Cooley, and one whose name has escaped me, were present, near the door. From that time onward Dr. Wells and myself gave the gas and extracted teeth as patients presented themselves. All would not take it; there was great fear lest it would cause death; only two physicians of our city (young men) approved of the administration of the gas or took any interest in the discovery, and these gentlemen performed several painless surgical operations under the influence of the gas administered by Dr. Wells himself. One or two months subsequent to the discovery Wells went to Boston and told his discovery to Dr. W. T. Morton (a former student of Wells). Some three years prior to the discovery Drs. Wells and Morton formed a partnership to open a dental office in Tremont Street, Boston. Wells soon dissolved the partnership, sold out to Morton, and returned to Hartford until the events of Dec. 10 and 11, 1844. In 1846 Dr. Morton came to Hartford on his summer vacation and requested Dr. Wells to show him how to make the gas. Dr. Wells referred him to Dr. Jackson, a chemist of Boston, as he would tell him all about it. Morton went to Jackson, and he told him to use sulphuric ether, as it was similar in its effects, and could be obtained with much less trouble. Morton testifies to this, and Dr. Jackson, also. Morton procured some ether, tried it on himself and on a patient, and then laid claim to the discovery of anæsthesia, which Dr. Wells had discovered twenty-two months before through the agency of nitrous oxide gas, as related above. Nor is this all; the gas was in continuous use in Wells's and my own office from the date of discovery to and after the time when Morton made

his claim. Morton quietly obtained a patent for letheon (a misnomer), which patent was pronounced unpatentable (because of former use), in a suit in the United States District Court of New York. There is much more concurrent and corroborative proof of my statement, which will appear in my unpublished "Minute History of the Discovery of Anæsthesia."

Very respectfully yours,

John M. Riggs

That this is the true history of the discovery of anæsthesia in the opinion of the medical profession throughout the State of Connecticut, is proved by the following minute, which was adopted without a dissenting voice at the annual meeting of the State Medical Society, held at New Haven, May 25, 1876: —

"In reference to so much of the president's address as relates to the discovery of anæsthesia, this convention deems it proper to place upon its record at this time the unanimous conviction of its members that to the late Dr. Horace Wells, of Hartford, belongs all the honor of this invaluable discovery.

"The proof of this is established by numerous irrefragable facts now before the world; by the published opinions of many learned and distinguished members of the medical profession, and others both at home and abroad; and by the unanimous verdict of the American Medical Association."

Wm A. M. Wainwright M.D.

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